

## **“Tony Jenzano, Astronaut Trainer: The Man Who Made the Stars Shine”**

A children’s book for the ages about the man who brought astronauts to North Carolina

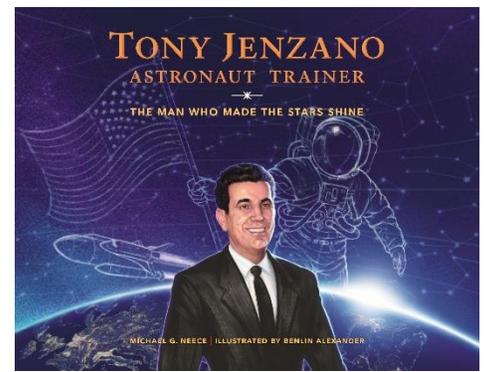
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North Carolina has a rich history with a wide range of contributors to make it a pioneering state. From the Wright Brothers early invention of the airplane at Kitty Hawk to training the NASA astronauts who first walked on the Moon in Chapel Hill, the state has had an undeniable connection to the skies and beyond.

Perfect for grades 2 through 5, this unique biography of astronaut trainer Tony Jenzano shows how this son of immigrants provided life-saving training for astronauts in the United States space program.

Tony Jenzano is one of the many lesser known people who helped America’s first space explorers get to the moon safely. From 1960 to 1975, he oversaw celestial navigation training for 62 NASA astronauts—including Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Jim Lovell— at Morehead Planetarium in Chapel Hill, NC.



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*"This beautifully illustrated book by Michael G. Neece brilliantly captures a chapter in the history of Morehead Planetarium. But it does so much more—it's a story of commitment, courage, learning and imagination. The bonds formed between museum director Tony Jenzano, Morehead Planetarium, and an amazing roster of famous astronauts were profound and lasting, and played a major role in sending the first Americans into space."*

-Mary Pope Osborne, author of the Magic Tree House Series

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Michael G. Neece writes public history, children’s books, and YA novels in Chapel Hill, North Carolina where he lives with his wife and three children. He presents constellation shows at Morehead Planetarium and Science Center under the same dome where NASA astronauts once trained. He is confident that children will guide us to the stars as long as we feed their curiosity and teach them kindness. [www.michaelgneece.com](http://www.michaelgneece.com)

For more information about Michael G. Neece, visit the [Author Page](#).



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Benlin Alexander is a professional illustrator located in Raleigh, North Carolina and working with clients across the country and throughout the world. He is a member of SCBWI and has completed twelve book projects since he started his career in 2012. [www.benlinaalexander.com](http://www.benlinaalexander.com)

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